

REMARKS

The Office action dated December 31, 2002 has been reviewed and the comments therein carefully considered. By the accompanying amendment, Applicant has provided a *bona fide* attempt to respond to the issues and questions concerning the description of the new variety set forth in the Office action.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and, accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

Substitute Specification w/markings (12 pages)